

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

O F

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 30th November 1981, commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Dash
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. M. Rundle
Mr. O. J. Slattery
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson
Mr. B. Greer

Chairman

Executive Officer
Employment Cooperatives' Adviser

In attendance for Item 3(ii)

Mr. S. Manallack

Apologies for absence

Mr. G. Simm

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 26th October 1981 having been circulated were received. Subject to amendment of Minute 4(ii), line 2, from "Board of Directors" to read "Council" they were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3 (i)

Visit to Brunswick Work Co-operative (Minute 10(i))

Arrangements having been made for this visit at 3.30 p.m. on 30th November had to be deferred owing to the Co-operative's subsequent commitments to the Co-operative Education programme.

3 (ii)

Promotion of the Federation - (Minute 10(ii))

Mr. Manallack of Manallack & Associates joined the meeting to advise Council on possible improved communications with members and the community.

After general discussion Council agreed:

"To engage Mr. Manalack to assist in production and issue of the December newsletter at a cost not to exceed \$200 above usual printing costs. Copy to be prepared by the Executive Officer.

It was also agreed efforts should be made to sell advertising space in the newsletter with the object of making the future issues self-supporting.

3 (iii)

Liaison with Thorpdale - Minute 4(iii)

Mr. Macintosh reported that the absence from duty of the Thorpdale Secretary had prevented the meeting.

3 (iv)

Reasons for Co-operative Failures - Minute 3 (v)

The Committee has not yet met. The name of Mr. John Barton, Head, Dept. Mathematics and Research, Footscray Institute of Technology, was submitted to the Committee by Mr. Dash as an interested resource person with experience in this particular study.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4 (i)

Outwards to 17 new H.I.O.V. members welcoming into membership.

4 (ii)

Outwards to Ibis re involvement of other Dairy Co-operatives in the Federation.

4 (iii)

Inwards from Mr. A. Plant resigning from Council.

4 (iv)

Inwards from C.I.C. submitting name of Mr. J. Mitchell as successor to Mr. Plant.

Council accepted the nomination of

Mr. Mitchell to fill the casual vacancy under Rule 32 of the Federation's Constitution.

4 (v)

Outwards to Registrar copied to the Minister administering the Co-operation Act, N.C.P. spokesman and Opposition spokesman on the Co-operation Bill with acknowledgement from the Minister and N.C.P. spokesman requesting 3 amendments to the Bill.

4 (vi)

From the Cooperative Federation of N.S.W. forwarding copy of their Annual Report.

4 (vii)

From Community Cooperative Stores, Perth, W. Australia requesting C.F.V. to act as their agent in Victoria and assistance in incorporating in this State as a Foreign Cooperative.

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FINANCIAL STATE

Separate and co period 1.7.81 to 30.11.81 in res Community Emplo discussed and r

6.

OPEN CHANNEL -

Council consid funds to cover Victoria.

7.

NOMINATIONS FC

In anticipatio Section 218 (2

8.

LEGISLATION C

The Committee submitted to

Council requested more information on the nature of this Cooperative's proposed business in Victoria.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Separate and consolidated statements of income and expenditure for period 1.7.81 to 30.11.81 and estimated consolidated Balance Sheet as at 30.11.81 in respect of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria and the Community Employment Cooperatives Development Programme were presented, discussed and received by the Council.

6. OPEN CHANNEL - VIDEO PROMOTION OF CO-OPERATIVES

Council considered a proposed marketing paper from Open Channel seeking funds to cover cost of production of a video tape on Cooperatives in Victoria.

Council agreed

- (i) *Mr. Manallack be invited to assist in finalising the draft paper into an acceptable form of appeal.*
- (ii) *The Federation commit \$1,000 to the appeal.*
- (iii) *The appeal to be launched in mid-January 1982 to as many Victorian Cooperatives as possible including non-members of the Federation.*
- (iv) *That all contributions to the appeal to be acknowledged.*
- (v) *That the result of the appeal be assessed before the February 1982 meeting of Council to enable Council to consider underwriting any short-fall in funds offered and cost of video production.*

7. NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPERATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In anticipation of the Co-operation Bill becoming law and the provisions of Section 218 (2)(c) Council agreed:

The five names to be submitted to the Minister for selection of two to become members of the Co-operative Advisory Council would comprise

Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson
Mr. B. Greer
Mr. J. N. Black

8. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 30th October 1981 from which meeting recommendations were submitted to Council

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Council agreed

(i) All Victorian Fishermen's Cooperatives be consulted to accurately assess needs in respect of corporate membership of their Cooperatives.

10 (ii)

(ii) All Federation members incorporated under the Co-operation Act be circulated to obtain an assessment of the proportion of their Capital held by untraceable members.

(iii) Studies be continued into Co-operative legislation interstate and overseas relating to Work Co-operatives and the practice of employee eligibility for director office.

Council directed

That enquiries be made in N.S.W. relating to formation of subsidiaries of Co-operative Societies.

9. CO-OPERATIVE BANK FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman had made personal visits to the following Co-operatives

Murray Goulburn
Victorian Producers
Phosphate Co-operative
Ibis Milk Products
Co-operative Insurance Company

to appeal for funds to meet the \$9,000 Victorian share of cost of initial feasibility studies into the establishment of an Australian Co-operative Bank. With the exception of Murray Goulburn each had agreed to contribute \$3,000. Council congratulated Messrs. Black and Slatery on the successful outcome of their efforts and directed

10(iii)

That formal appreciation be extended to the Co-operatives visited and that, in addition, the four last named above be invited to contribute \$2,250 each for the specific purpose of meeting feasibility study costs; the contributions to be held in a separate account until called for by the C.F.A.

Mr. Slatery reported a potential investigator has been approached by the Co-operative Federation of N.S.W. to conduct the study. A meeting of the Steering Committee to consider the programme for the study has been called in Sydney for 8th December 1981.

10 (iv)

10. REPORTS

10 (i)

Co-operative Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported on the November meeting of this Council, on progress of the Co-operation Bill through Parliament and

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amendment of the Regulation to authorise increased maximum rate of dividend payable on Co-operative Shares. Of two Co-operatives operating with Government Guarantee funds now in the hands of liquidators, one is likely to be able to honour its guarantee commitment in full.

10 (ii) Community Employment Co-operatives Development Adviser

Mr. Greer tabled a formal report on his activities to 30th October 1981. He reported on meetings of the Development Programme Funding Committee at which Mr. Long had been present as an alternate for Mr. Rawlinson away on interstate duties.

A desired intent to issue loans to applicant Co-operatives for funding as a base for a revolving fund type of finance for the Programme had been ruled out of order by the Treasury as no requisite legislation currently exists. Funding will, therefore, continue in the form of direct Government grants.

A formal and progressive programme of education for Employment Co-operative staff, directors, worker/members has been commenced on a weekly basis with the final session being a 2 day residential session in Ballarat. Good liaison is being maintained with the Small Business Development Corporation.

A video programme relating specifically to Employment Co-operatives jointly sponsored by the Federation with Government funds and the V.O.C. of the R.M.I.T. should be completed for initial presentation at the Ballarat session of the Education programme.

Action is advanced towards briefing meetings with Parliamentary Opposition leaders on role, significance of Employment Cooperatives programme and the need for a continuing Government support.

10(iii) Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported on his involvement as Director of the Australian Development Assistance Course in New South Wales for the three week period since the last meeting of Council.

He reported on an article in the December issue of the Australian Accountant's Journal concerning the need for liaison between accounting executives of buying groups operating on co-operative lines.

10 (iv) Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Rawlinson informed Council that the Steering Committee of the C.F.A. set up to consider restructuring the Co-operative Federation of Australia is scheduled to meet in Sydney on 8th December to consider a paper for subsequent circulation to State Federations on proposals for change in overall structure.

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11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 (i) Dairy Co-operatives

The Chairman reported on lack of response by the Co-operative Dairy Factories Association to several formal approaches for group membership of Dairy Co-operatives.

Council agreed

Dairy Co-operatives be approached individually with a view to participation in Federation membership at the approved scale of subscription with possible reduction for total group membership. Ibis and Murray Goulburn to be advised of action taken and assistance in recruitment sought.

11 (ii) Council agreed

To hold a one day planning seminar to review, revise and determine future objectives and strategies for the Co-operative Federation and that such a session be held not later than 31st March 1982.

It was further agreed

The proposal be reconsidered at the February meeting of Council after receipt and study of proposals for restructuring the C.F.A.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday, 15th February 1982 at 225 Swanston Street, commencing 7 p.m.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.30 p.m.

PM Black
15.2.82

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3. MINUTES

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4. MATTERS

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